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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/674,515

09/30/2003

Keith N. Larson

503022-A-01US (Larson)

4111

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07/27/2006

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EXAMINER

CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/674,515 | Applicant(s) LARSON ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Joy K. Contee | Art Unit 2617 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-12,14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Navarro, U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2003/0143974, previously used, in view Eaton et al. (Eaton), US Patent No. 6,888,811.

Regarding claim 1, Navarro discloses a method (and system) for a cell phone service provider to communicate to a cell phone user, said user located in a particular local geographical area, an alert message that effects that particular local geographical area, said method comprising the steps of: determining the user is located in said geographical area; receiving said alert message from a reporting agency, said message containing information as to locations effected; determining cellular phone cells that are serviced by the cell phone service provider and that are in the effected locations; and,

providing to the user at least one communication advising him of the alert message (para 0019).

Navarro fails to explicitly disclose determining that the user is a member of a class intended to receive an alert.

In a similar field of endeavor, Eaton discloses determining that the user is a member of a class intended to receive an alert (col. 12, lines 18-64).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Navarro to include determining that the user is a member of a class intended to receive an alert for the purpose of contacting only users in a location sensitive area, e.g., wireless local area network.

Regarding claims 2 and 9, Navarro and Eaton discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the reporting agency is selected from the group consisting of National Weather Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Amber Alert Systems, State Police, Fire Department, local government agency, and local police (see Eaton para 0119).

Regarding claims 3 and 10, Navarro and Eaton discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said communication is selected from the group consisting of displaying information, triggering an audio alert, and supplying a voice message (see Eaton, para 0025).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Navarro and Eaton discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: inherently permitting the user to limit said providing step based upon subject content of the message (para 0023-0026, especially 0025).

Regarding claims 5 and 12, Navarro and Eaton discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: inherently permitting the user to limit the frequency at which said communications are provided to him (para 0023-0026, especially 0025).

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Navarro and Eaton discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: defining the location of a destination contained in the message; and, communicating to the user directions from his present location to said destination (para 0020).

Conclusion


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K Contee whose telephone number is 571.272.7906. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on 571.272.7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JC


JOY K. CONTEE
PATENT EXAMINER